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Col. Egginton relinquishes control Col. Rosborg takes over

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Staff Writer

The 47th Flying Training Wing had a Change of Command ceremony for Wing Commander on Tuesday morning at the T-1 Maintenance Hangar.

The outgoing Wing Commander, Col. Jack Egginton came to Laughlin in December 2000 and has now been reassigned to the Pentagon to serve as executive officer to General John Jumper, the next Air Force Chief of Staff.

The incoming wing commander, Col. Eric J. Rosborg arrives to Laughlin from Randolph AFB where he served as director of staff at headquarters Air Education and Training Command beginning in June 2000.

The ceremony opened with the arrival of the official party, which included the colonels and Major General Steven R. Polk, 19th Air Force Commander and their families. Ruffles and Flourishes, the National Anthem and an Invocation by Chaplain Carl Swanson, 47th Flying Training Wing Chaplain followed.

Col. Egginton's last address to the 47th Flying Training Wing as their commander was difficult to deliver. Telling the story of his last flight at LAFB on the day before, Col. Egginton pointed and said, "I flew that cute little thing" outside the Hangar which had now been personalized for Col. Rosborg's use.

"I flew over the lake and as I called down for the last time, it was hard. This was my last landing," recalled Col. Egginton.

"A bit of personal philosophy, first, cherish your families. Most important work with is within the walls of your own homes. Don't get wrapped up in individual pursuits. It will not have been worth it if no one is at home.

"Second, never forget the oath you made to the Air Force," advised Col. Egginton.

"But, there are sorties to fly and students to graduate. Team XL, thank you for what you stand for. Team XL is in excellent hands," said Col. Egginton about the future of Team XL under Col. Rosborg.

"Serving along beside you is an experience I will forever cherish. I wish you God speed and strong tail winds," finished the departing Col. Egginton.

General Polk then accepted the relinquishment of command from Col. Egginton and presented the 47th Flying Training Wing flag to Col. Rosborg who accepted command by taking the flag.

"Yes, that is about the prettiest, slickest little jet I ever have seen," said Col. Rosborg to Col. Egginton as he took the stage after the unveiling of his newly personalized jet.

"This is the best, biggest and busiest top air field. What can I do with 90 seconds as wing commander possibly give you? I know what to expect from you. I can expect excellence. I will lead you with enthusiasm. We will build on the awesome relationship with the great community of Del Rio," said Col. Rosborg after taking command of the 47th Flying Training Wing.

"Col. Egginton. Adios, Buena Suerte y vaya con Dios," were Gen. Polk's words to Col. Egginton.

The ceremony concluded with the departure of the official party after the singing of the Air Force song and reception followed at Club XL.

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Col. Rosborg is a 1975 graduate of the Air Force Academy and holds a master's degree in Personal Management from Troy State University, Ala., and a master's degree in National Security Strategy from National Defense University.

He is a 1990 distinguished graduate of Air Command and Staff college and a 1994 graduate of the National War College.



Del Rio News-Herald photo by Alejandra valdez

The new 47th Flying Training Wing Commander is Col. Eric J. Rosborg, center. Col. Jack Egginton, standing behind Rosborg, will now report to the Pentagon to serve as executive officer to Gen. John Jumper, the next Air Force Chief of Staff. Col. Rosborg was given command by Gen. Steven R. Polk, the 19th Air Force Commander.

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Capt. Bill Dornham, 25th Flying Training Squadron, straps Ryan Merriman into a T-38 at Vance Air Force Base. (Staff Photo by PAUL RUTHERFORD)

Actor gets his chance to soar

Hollywood actor and Oklahoma native Ryan Merriman has been around the Air Force before in the movies.

On Friday, it was for real as the 18-year-old received an orientation flight in a T-38 Talon trainer at Vance Air Force Base.

One of Merriman's credits was the Fox Family television movie "Rocket's Red Glare," in which he played a high school student and third-generation spacecraft wannabe who restores a Mercury Redstone rocket with

the help of his grandfather, a retired Air Force colonel portrayed by Robert Wagner. When the space shuttle has an emergency in space, the Air Force launches Merriman's rocket to the rescue.

The movie was filmed at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

Merriman requested a chance to fly with the Air Force, and Vance officials were happy to comply, said Kent Cummins, with Vance public affairs.

It's a chance to get information about the Air Force out to teens, Cummins said.

"We hope he will be an ambassador for the Air Force," Cummins said.

Merriman has been featured on the television shows "Touched by an Angel," "The Pretenders" and "The Mommies."

His film credits include "A Ring of Endless Light," "Dangerous Child," "The Luck of the Irish," "Deep End of the Ocean" and "Everything That Rises."